



# The Link

April 2015

## St. Paul United Church of Christ

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## Words of encouragement from Rev. Becky Sunday

Some months ago, as I was sharing with you about my first trip to El Salvador in 2014, I told you about a young girl named Diyana, whom I met on my travels. When I met her, Diyana was in fourth grade. She was one of three girls who took an interest in me when we toured the Colegio Luterana, the grade school run by the Lutheran Church in San Salvador. These three girls chattered away at me in their Spanish as I struggled to keep up, eventually drawing me out of my shell. The next day, I encountered Diyana again. This time she was a patient at the Lutheran clinic nearby. She called my name from across the room and ran to embrace me. And even though we had met only a day before, we were no longer strangers. I have carried her with me in my heart from that moment until now.

There is something special about being called by name. It means that we have been noticed; it means that we are known. In John's telling of the Easter story, Mary Magdalene finds herself outside the empty tomb, bewildered and alone, grieving the loss of her precious Jesus. Even when Jesus first speaks to her, she hears only the voice of a stranger—the gardener, she thinks—until she hears the familiar sound of her name. And in that moment came the inexplicable joy of knowing that the great love of God that she had experienced in Jesus and teachings was alive and would live on forever!

I felt so blessed to be able to return to El Salvador a few weeks ago. It was wonderful to reconnect with friends there, to hear stories of what the church is doing, to share my experience with first-time travelers, and to see the fruits of our continued covenant partnership. When we visited the school this time, I saw some new faces. But many were also familiar. I was looking for one in particular—now a fifth grader. While the children were on a recess, I spotted her in the school yard. As I walked up to her, I had no ex-

pectation. I only wanted to let her know that I noticed her...that I knew her...and that she was special to me. I spoke her name as a question, "Diyana?" And the response was more than I could have imagined. "Becky!" she shouted. The smile ran across her face, and our arms flung around each other in an embrace that was full of a thousand words that could not begin to speak the love of God that lives between us.

This Easter season, be waiting for Christ to surprise you. Listen for Jesus calling your name, and bask in the brightness of God's love.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Becky



## SPECIAL LENTEN SERVICES

We will once again be sharing services for our holy days in Lent with our neighbors at First English Lutheran Church and St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

- **Maundy Thursday**—April 2, 7:00 PM at First English Lutheran (Rev. Becky Sunday preaching)
- **Good Friday**—April 3, 7:00 PM at St Paul UCC (Rev. Mark Bauer preaching)
- **Easter Sunday**—April 5, 8:15 & 10:15 St Paul UCC Service with Holy Communion
- **Easter Potluck Brunch**—April 5, 9:00

# *A Message from Church Council*

Highlights of Council meeting on March 9, 2015

1. Repairs have been completed on the furnaces in the Sanctuary and the Education Wing. The freezer in the kitchen is being repaired. Work needs to be started on the floor stain in the handicapped bathroom.
2. The interview process continues for the Faith Formation position.
- 3 The Church Mice committee is sponsoring fellowship time between services and after the 10:15 am service called Chat and Chew.
4. The summer lunch program is moving forward. The Mission Committee is meeting with the food service director from the Wapakoneta City Schools .

## **HELP WANTED UPDATE** **Mark Jarvis, Council President**

I just wanted to share with you an update to the Church's search efforts for the available Associate Pastor position and Director of Faith Formation & Worship Arts position.

Both positions have been advertised for sometime on regional university career websites, professional website job boards (ex. Ohio Music Educators Associations) and the UCC website.

We have had inquiries from interested candidates for both positions. In addition to Council Members and Pastor Sunday, members of our Personnel Committee, music staff and Faith Formation Committee have participated in the process. Things are moving slowly for the part time Associate Pastor position. While we have received inquiries for this position, we have yet to invite any candidates for an interview.

You may recall that the Director of Faith Formation & Worship Arts position is a combination of the former Director of Christian Education and Director of Music part-time positions. For this position, we have had several inquiries and interviewed **four candidates**. As of this writing, one candidate has been in for a second interview. We have been blessed with well qualified and enthusiastic applicants. I'm hopeful that by the mid year point, we'll have a candidate that has accepted an offer for this position and that we will be spending the summer planning for Fall programming.

More to come!  
Mark R. Jarvis

# Christian Education News

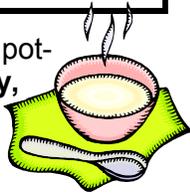
## ANNUAL GYM AND SWIM PARTY

You missed a good time if you were not at the YMCA on Sunday, March 8th. We had 53 people swim and shoot baskets to work up an appetite for some pizza. Those winning door prizes were: James Smith, Jessica Freytag, Hannah Ott, Courtney Sutton, Cameron Reichenbach, Olivia Place, Dalton Koeper, Lucas Steinke, Rylan Smith, Stephanie Steinke, Henry Martin, Desiree Barnes, Avery Place, Christopher Wright, Mick Haehn, Makenna Smith, & Hudson Martin. It was great to see all ages having fun!



## EASTER POTLUCK BREAKFAST

The Sunday School is hosting a potluck breakfast on **Easter Sunday, April 5th**. This will be from 9AM to 10AM. The Sunday School will provide table service and drinks. We hope to have someone hop in to see the children and there will be crafts available also for the children during this time.



Come join us after the early service or prior to the 10:15 service.



## NEW OUTLOOK BLUEGRASS GROUP

The New Outlook Bluegrass group will return to St. Paul UCC at the 10:15 worship on **Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**. A love offering will be collected to help support the band's expenses.



## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

*We had many opportunities to help others in the months of November, December, January, and February.*

- *We had 72 items that were donated to The Auglaize County Humane Society that were very much appreciated when they were delivered in February.*
- *On that same day, also delivered to Wapak Elementary School were many pairs of socks.*
- *In December the Sunday School had adopted a family for Christmas from the Crisis Center. The list for the mother and her children that we received was happily delivered to the Crisis Center prior to Christmas so the family was able to celebrate this joyous season.*
- *For our "Souper Bowl Sunday" which the Middle School Youth Group challenged each side of the sanctuary to bring in the most can good items. I believe the side of the Bell Choir brought in the most, but all sides won as 90 some items were delivered to God's Storhouse.*
- *For Heifer International: Collected on Heifer Sunday in November and through the month of December we were able to send \$862.37.*

The Christian Education/Faith Formation Team will meet on **Monday, April 6h at 6PM.** We will be discussing FEAST for next fall and ways to promote FEAST and SUNDAY SCHOOL.

All are welcome!

## THANK YOU VERY MUCH –

Thanks to St Paul UCC members & friends for donating food & monetary gifts to make the Easter Dinner Project so successful again this Easter! God's Storehouse greatly appreciates your expression of love & caring for families in our community who would otherwise not enjoy this complete Easter meal, including ham, chicken breasts, or turkey breast. Thank you also to our CIA (Christians in Action) Senior High Youth Team & Pastor Becky for assembling & delivering the Easter bags.

## CHANGES

by Laura Kinstle

As I get older I find that change is quite difficult for me. My parents use to say you're getting "set in your ways" and now I know what that means.

This past fall, my husband and I decided that due to our increase in health problems, it would be best if we would move to a retirement community. I knew it would be a change for us but I never imagined how hard that change would be. I would be leaving my three-bedroom home for a small studio home. And in order to do this, we had to sell our house and most of our personal belongings.

The day of the sale was met with tears knowing most of our personal property would be sold and we would no longer have the pleasure of owning it. How did I know that selling my mom's favorite set of dishes, my curio cabinet that held all my music boxes and my baby grand piano would cause my heart to ache over and over? I think I was so busy handling the sale, the movers, and countless phone calls that I wouldn't even notice what all we would lose. I know change can be a good thing but this type of change wasn't at all what I imagined.

And I know, too, that I will get use to the retirement community in time because in the long run it is a good change.

We go through life seeing many changes. As we grown older we see our children grow up and have their own children, our parents' age and they pass away and even our beloved pets grow old and leave us.

But, we are very lucky as Christians because one thing never changes; God's love for us. God loves us no matter if we have sinned and gone astray. God is with us in our darkest hours and hears our prayers each and every day. I always try to remember to thank God for the goodness he has brought to me; for taking care of me each day and watching over my loved ones.

And the church will always be there for us each Sunday. That will never change. We will be able to go each Sunday and sing our hymns, listen to the choirs and the sermon and pray.

So you see, we may go through constant change but remember God is always there, wherever we may be or through any changes in our lives. Let God be there for you, too.

# Our Church Family

## With caring thoughts...



Our deepest sympathy and condolences to **Don Webb and his family** on the passing of Don's mother, Patricia Webb, who passed away on Friday, March 6, 2015.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the **friends and family of Betty Keller**, who passed away on Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the **friends and family of Betty Hines** who passed away on Saturday, March 14, 2015.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to our

### St. Paul Youth!

Nathan Kaeck	4/01/97
Leanne Moninger	4/01/99
Allison Nolte	4/12/98
Tori Coolidge	4/12/06
Makayla Bailey	4/13/05
Makenna Bailey	4/13/05
Alexis Hoelscher	4/14/97
Charles Sutton	4/16/98
Alex Smithey	4/16/01
Hudson Martin	4/18/12
Emma Closson	4/22/99
Davita Hoelscher	4/22/03
Ayla Webb	4/26/13
Avery Place	4/26/05

## Happy Anniversary!!

04/04/1988	Luke & Kim Klein
04/08/2000	Greg & Wendy Schlenker
04/09/1994	Brad & Sherry Kaeck
04/11/1970	James & Deb Kaeck
04/20/1985	Michael & Jane Burke
04/21/2012	Andrea & Marty Brookhart
04/22/1978	Lewis & Cindy Erb
04/26/1980	Dennis & Barbara Kohler
04/26/1986	Larry & Vicki Winkler
04/29/2011	Erin & Chase Falke
04/29/2012	Jim & Cindy Huckemeyer
04/30/1977	Devin & Cindy Holtzaple



04/01	Shirley Pohlable	04/14	Lewis Knoch
04/01	Stephanie Steinke	04/15	Martha Hefner
04/02	Philip Schlenker	04/16	Laura Kinstle
04/04	Kalene Byer	04/16	Lisa Wellington
04/04	Randy Frick	04/18	Heather Unrue
04/05	Nancy Shaffer	04/19	Judy Mason
04/05	Mary Jo Roth	04/19	Richard Roth
04/05	Delmar Merricle	04/20	David Wheeler
04/06	Kay Dorner	04/23	Mark Short
04/08	Zane McElroy	04/24	Michael Hosterman
04/08	Alex Hively	04/25	Miranda Allen
04/09	Betty Newland	04/25	William Method
04/10	Margene Herman	04/26	Kirk Azbell
04/10	David Bennett	04/26	Dawn Miller
04/10	Sarah Lawrence	04/27	Peg Schlenker
04/11	James Hearn Jr.	04/28	Dorothy Frey
04/12	Victoria Smith	04/28	Elaine Mikesell
04/13	Linda Baker	04/30	Merlin Dingledine



# Meetings and Events

## BOOK CLUB MEETING



The next book club meeting will be held AT THE GARDENS on **Tuesday, April 21st at 7PM**. Our book for this month is "The Tin Horse" by Janice Steinberg. It has been more than 60 years since Elaine's twin sister, Barbara ran away. As Elaine prepares to move to a retirement community, she comes across some old papers that gives a hint of where Barbara might be. Elaine recalls growing up with her spirited family and the momentous sisters, mothers, and daughters and the profound and surprising ways we are shaped by those we love. The books are available in the church office so have a good read and join us on the 21st.

## NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION MEETING – Saturday, April 25, 2015

We look forward to our 2015 NWOA 52nd Annual Meeting to be held at St. Stephen United Church of Christ in Sandusky, Ohio, from 8:00AM-4:00PM. The keynote speaker will be Rev. R. Philip Hart, designated Ohio Conference Minister. Special Guest will be Rev. Tim Dixon, Pastor of First Congl. UCC, from WV, and Christian Chavarria, El Salvador Church Partnership. To register, visit [www.nwoa.org](http://www.nwoa.org) or see Pastor Becky.

## Special Guest & Carry-In-Dinner

Join us as we welcome our guest preacher, Christian Chavarria, from El Salvador, on **Sunday, April 26th**. Plan to stay after worship for a carry-in dinner to continue fellowship with Christian and one another. Meat and beverages will be provided. Please bring your own table service and a side dish or dessert to share.

## WOMEN'S GUILD

Women's Guild will meet again on **Tuesday, April 14th at 1:30PM**. All women of the church and their friends are encouraged to attend. If you haven't been able to attend a meeting, we would love to have you join us. We have nuts and chocolates for sale. **BEST PRICES IN TOWN!** Our high quality 1lb bags of walnuts, pecans, and black walnuts will beat local prices. They freeze well also. Your purchase from St Paul Women's Guild benefits mission projects here in Wapak as well as helping Kendra Short in her mission work in Greece. Check out our great pistachios, our deluxe nuts, snack mixes and quality chocolates too. Great taste, nutrition and charitable works. What's not to love???

## CIRCLE ONE

Circle One will meet the first Thursday of every month ~~September~~ through May. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, April 2nd at 1:30PM** in the multipurpose room. We welcome newcomers. If you have a free afternoon, please join us. We'd love to have you!

## CIRCLE THREE

Circle Three will be meeting at Coffey Cup at **11:30AM on Thursday, April 16th**. All are welcome.





# APRIL 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> <b>No Feast</b>  Lenten Service at St Joe St Paul does Meal	<b>2</b> <i>Maundy Thursday</i>  1:30PM Circle One	<b>3</b> <i>Good Friday</i>  Church Office Closed  	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <i>Easter Sunday</i> 8:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion  9:00AM Easter Pot- luck Breakfast 10:15AM Worship w/ Holy Communion	<b>6</b>  6:00PM Faith Formation Board Meeting	<b>7</b> 7:00PM Lenten Bible Study  7-8:30PM Suicide Survivor Support Group	<b>8</b>  3:00PM Feast 6:15PM Cherubs 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	<b>9</b>  5:00 PM Council Execu- tive Board Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  CRI Sorting 9AM—12PM
<b>12</b> 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship w/New Outlook Bluegrass 11:30AM Worship Arts Committee 11:30 AM Church MICE	<b>13</b>  6:00PM Church Council	<b>14</b> 1:30PM Women's Guild  7:00PM Roots & Shoots (TH)	<b>15</b> 3:00PM Feast 6:15PM Cherubs 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	<b>16</b>  11:30AM Circle Three  1:00 PM Stewardship Committee	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:15AM Worship w/Holy Communion  9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship  3:00-5:30PM Confirmation Class	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  7:00PM Book Club	<b>22</b> 3:00PM Feast 6:15PM Cherubs 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  NWOA Meeting in Sandusky
<b>26</b>  8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship  3:00-5:30PM Confirmation Class	<b>27</b> 6:00 PM Personnel Committee	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 3:00PM Feast 6:15PM Cherubs 6:30PM Bell Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	<b>30</b>  4:30-6:30PM Loaves & Fishes		

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Rev. Becky Sunday, Senior Pastor

Study (419) 738-6216  
Cell (567) 356-6773  
Email [becky@stpaulucc.com](mailto:becky@stpaulucc.com)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## LET'S GET TOGETHER !

### Regular Worship Times

Sunday Mornings 8:15 & 10:15 AM

Sunday School 9AM

Children's Church during 10:15 worship

**Easter Sunday April 5**  
**with 8:15 AM & 10:15AM services**  
**9:00 AM**  
**Easter Potluck Breakfast**



**ST. PAUL**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Wapakoneta, Ohio

#### **Our MISSION**

*As a congregation of God's people, we welcome and encourage all to join in fellowship, joyful and inspirational worship and faithful stewardship. United in Christ, we support and nurture one another in personal development and spiritual growth. We strive to reflect Christ's Love and to spread God's Word throughout our community and the world.*